2008-03391/

The Corporation of The City of London
June 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Safe And Responsible Outdoor Fires: New rules govern the use of outdoor fires

London residents are reminded to be safe, responsible and respectful when having an outdoor fire.

"Londoners should know that the Open Air Burning By-law regulates when, where and how you can have outdoor fires," explained Deputy Fire Chief Dan Oldridge. "Following these regulations ensures that outdoor fires are safe, that they burn responsibly and that they do not constitute a nuisance for neighbours."

The Open Air Burning regulations stipulate that citizens can have outdoor fires between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight. The fire must be no larger than 46 centimetres (cm) wide, 46 cm long and 30 cm high. Fires larger than this size (a bonfire for example) must be accompanied by a permit, issued by the Fire Department. Only charcoal, briquettes or clean, dry seasoned wood may be burned. Yard waste and pressure treated or painted wood may not be burned.

Outdoor fires must be properly attended with a ready means of extinguishing it and must not constitute a nuisance to other neighbours. The bylaw prohibits all fires if the wind exceeds 15 kilometres per hour, if it is rainy or foggy or if a smog day has been declared.

An officer may order a fire to be extinguished if it is not in compliance with the bylaw, and those convicted of not complying with the bylaw face fines up to a maximum of $10,000.

A fact sheet which accompanies this news release outlines full details of the regulations. The bylaw is available on the London Fire Department website.

General inquiries can be made at 519 661-4565.